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FROM : AMEMBASSY, TAIPEI

353

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF : DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, DATE JAN 21 1955

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION FE-4	DEPT. OC/R-2	OTHER CIA-7	ARMY-4	NAVY-3	AIR-3
REC'D 1/27	ACTION TAKEN					

SUBJECT: Vice President CH'EN CH'ENG Condemns Chinese Press Criticisms of Free China

Action Office Symbol CA

In a conversation January 12 with Mr. KUO Chi, long-time confidential assistant to Vice President CH'EN CH'ENG, and Deputy Chief of the First Section (Party Organization and Activities in Free China) of the Kuomintang Central Committee, the Reporting Officer referred to local press accounts on January 12 stating that on the previous day the Vice President, in an address to judicial officials, had declared that some Chinese newsmen and others had taken advantage of democratic freedoms to malign Free China and that they should be "eliminated". On January 12 the English-language daily, China Post, had an article, EVIL MINDS ATTACKING GOVERNMENT MUST BE ELIMINATED NOW, CHEN CHENG, which said, in part:

"Vice President Chen Cheng charged yesterday that some Chinese here have made 'untrue' statements against the government 'under the pretext of democracy and freedom'.

"He added, 'These people must be eliminated.' He did not identify who they are but he hinted that they exist in cultural circles. Neither did he elaborate on how to eliminate these people.

"The Vice President further charged that these Chinese have failed to see what foreign newspapermen have seen.

" 'Foreign pressmen,' Chen said, 'have a good understanding of the Chinese Government but this is not true of some Chinese who have failed to understand the Government. They have made untrue statements from under the pretext of democracy and freedom.'

"...The Vice President also described the present stage as 'revolutionary' and said that on Taiwan there must be no 'evil men' because, he said, they would obstruct our task to restore the nation."

The RO inquired what persons the Vice President might have had in mind in his above-reported statement.

RWRinden:cs
REPORTER

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Kuo

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Kuo said that he did not know but that he had been present when the Vice President made the speech. The latter, called on without advance notice, had spoken impromptu. However, Kuo said the Vice President was strongly of the opinion that the public mind should be concentrated on preparations for the counterattack against the mainland and that, as accounts of governmental failings distracted the populace from the supreme objective, they should be kept to a minimum. If wrongs were to be righted the best way was to present the matter to members of the Legislative Yuan and not to publicize them in the press or otherwise. Reiterating that he did not know whom the Vice President may have had in mind, Kuo remarked that the Lien Ho Pan had carried a series of articles highly critical of the Government.

In reponse to the RO's question, Kuo said that there was no connection between the Vice President's charges and the recent expulsion of Mr. LEE Chen, publisher of Free China Magazine (Tzu Yu Chung Kuo), from the Kuomintang. Lei was expelled, Kuo explained, because he had been slack in his obligations to the Party; in the past year he had not attended meetings and had not paid his dues. On the mainland where party discipline had been easy and the organization loose it would have been possible to have gotten by with this casual behavior. On Formosa, however, President CHIANG Kai-shek was determined that discipline should be firm and that the privileges and advantages of Kuomintang membership should call forth active service to the Party.

Kuo further observed that Lei [redacted] his acquaintanceship with Dr. HU Shih (originally the magazine's nominal publisher) was due to Dr. WANG Shih-chieh, former Presidential Office Secretary-General. Lei was a protege of Dr. Wang since the time when the latter was Minister of Education and Lei was a section chief in the Ministry, Kuo said. Kuo recalled that when he was a Councillor of the Executive Yuan (when Ch'en Ch'eng was Premier) that Lei, on behalf of Free China, requested a yearly subsidy of NT\$20,000 from the National Government for Free China. 301(5)

For the Ambassador:

Robert W. Rinden
First Secretary of Embassy

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